Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

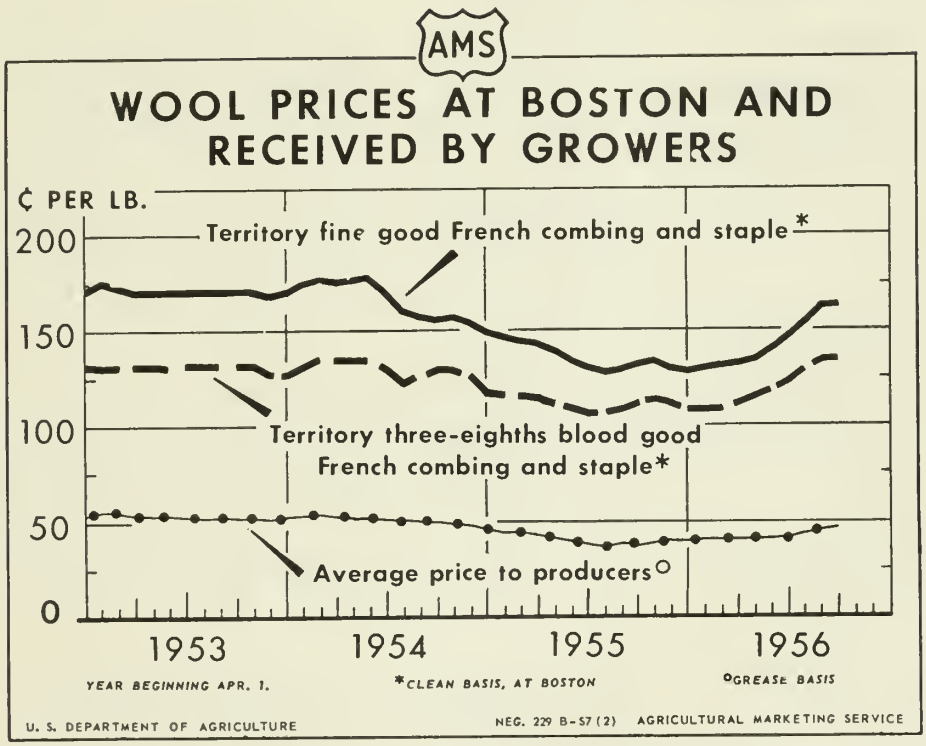
2WWS
9
.T752Ww

The WOOL SITUATION

TWS - 38

FOR RELEASE
FEB. 27, A. M.
1957

LIBRARY
CURRENT RECORD
JUL 3 - 1958
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



With a strengthening of world demand relative to available supplies, prices of wool began to advance at about the time of the opening of the current domestic marketing season. As of early February, Boston quotations for most domestic descriptions were between 10 and 25 percent above a year earlier and at the highest levels in about 2 years.

The mid-month average of prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool also advanced. It was below a year earlier during each of the first 6 months of the current season but above during the following 4 months. The 1955-56 seasonal average of prices received was 42.8 cents per pound, grease basis, but Government payments to producers after the close of the season brought the average return up to 62 cents, the incentive level. The incentive levels for both the current and 1957-58 seasons also are 62 cents.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1955			1956				1957	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	39.0	38.3	39.4	37.8	42.3	44.4	45.6	46.7	124
Parity price		58.8	58.6	58.6	60.1	61.4	61.8	61.8	64.5	107
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	66	65	67	63	69	72	74	72	
Boston, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	130.0	127.5	129.8	131.6	147.5	152.5	162.5	162.5	123
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.0	117.5	117.5	121.2	132.0	137.5	147.5	152.5	126
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	107.5	107.5	108.1	111.1	121.5	127.9	132.5	132.5	119
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	101.8	101.5	102.5	105.1	111.5	116.5	122.5	122.5	117
Low 1/4 blood	do.	92.5	92.5	92.5	96.2	109.1	107.5	109.5	109.5	114
Common and braid	do.	92.5	88.5	91.2	92.5	100.5	100.5	101.5	101.5	110
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	131.2	127.5	127.5	131.2	147.5	153.8	162.5	162.5	124
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	110.0	109.1	111.5	116.8	126.0	130.9	137.5	137.5	118
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	99.9	99.2	102.9	106.4	113.1	116.8	119.5	119.5	112
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	95.9	94.5	98.4	101.5	108.2	112.8	117.5	117.1	115
Low 1/4 blood	do.	92.0	87.6	89.2	91.9	102.5	103.0	105.0	105.0	114
Common and braid	do.	84.9	84.0	86.6	87.5	93.0	93.0	95.0	95.0	109
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	131.2	128.0	132.5	134.8	152.5	158.8	162.5	162.5	121
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	117.5	116.5	117.5	118.8	127.5	137.5	142.5	142.5	120
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	107.5	102.5	102.5	105.0	122.5	127.5	132.5	132.5	126
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	131.1	127.5	127.5	135.0	147.5	150.0	157.5	157.5	117
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	126.2	122.5	122.5	130.0	142.5	145.0	152.5	152.5	117
64's combing	do.	121.2	117.5	117.5	125.0	137.5	138.8	142.5	142.5	114
58's, 60's combing	do.	116.2	112.5	112.5	120.0	132.5	133.1	135.0	136.5	114
Montevideo, super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	102.4	101.4	102.0	102.5	118.3	124.5	127.8	140.4	137
1's (56's)	do.	100.2	98.0	98.0	98.5	112.3	119.5	122.2	131.5	134
2's (50's)	do.	95.6	94.5	94.5	95.5	103.0	115.0	115.0	126.3	132
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.0	94.6	95.5	95.5	95.5	105
4's (44's)	do.	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	93.3	94.5	94.5	94.5	107
5's (40's)	do.	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	93.3	94.5	94.5	94.5	107
Manmade staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 2/	do.	34.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	3/	100
Acetate, 5 denier 2/	do.	37.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	3/	100
Nylon, 3 denier 4/	do.	150.0	150.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	128.0	128.0	102
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	160.0	160.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	141.0	141.0	104
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	150.0	150.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	128.0	128.0	102
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 4/	do.	140.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	100
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 4/	do.	128.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 4/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
2/ From Textile Organon.
3/ Not available.
4/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

79993

THE WOOL SITUATION

CONTENTS

	Page		Page
Summary	4	Dutiable Wool Last Year Than in 1955	14
Prices in Foreign Markets Up Substantially from Year Ago	6	Imports of Duty-free Wool Increased Last Year	14
Boston Quotations Also Higher Than Year Ago	6	Carpet Wool Stocks on January 1 About 4 Percent Below Year Earlier	15
Growers' Prices Also Advanced	6	CCC Holdings of Wool Reduced to About 58 Million Pounds	15
Payments Under 1955 Incentive Program Add Up to $57 Million	9	World Consumption Increased Last Year	15
1956 and 1957 Incentive Programs for Wool and Mohair	9	1956 Mill Use of Apparel Wool Up Somewhat from 1955	16
Prices of Man-made Staple Fiber Increased	10	Domestic Mills Used More Carpet Wool Last Year	19
1956-57 World Production 4 Percent Higher than 1955-56	10	More Woolen and Worsted Fabric Produced Last Year Than in 1955	19
U. S. Stock Sheep Numbers Decline	10	Mixed Trends in Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Last Year	22
U. S. Production of Man-made Staple Fiber Continues to Increase	12	Mixed Trends in Production of Women's Outerwear Garments Last Year	22
1955-56 Exports from Southern Hemisphere Above 1954-55	13	List of Tables	25-26
1956-57 Exports from Southern Hemisphere Running Above 1955-56	13		
United States Imported Less			

SUMMARY

Wool prices in the U. S. and abroad in early February continued the rise that began about the time the current season opened last April 1. The rise has been steady except for temporary interruptions. The January mid-month average price to growers was the highest since March 1955. Although world production is up an estimated 4 percent in 1956-57, demand has strengthened relative to supplies.

Producers of some of the man-made staple fibers announced price increases late last year. However, the increases were small relative to those for wool.

In early February, prices of most merino wools at the British Dominion auction centers ranged between 25 and 30 percent above last March. Prices of most crossbred wools were up between 15 and 25 percent. Net

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1955				1956					Last data available as percent of a year earlier
		Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. 1/	
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds										
Dutiable 2/	do.	6.8	7.7	8.9	8.1	7.1	4.9	5.1	4.8	6.3	78
60's and finer	do.	4.0	3.8	5.1	4.6	3.2	2.3	2.1	1.6	3.9	85
56's - 60's	do.	.9	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.2	.8	.9	.8	1.0	67
50's - 56's	do.	.6	.8	.8	.5	.8	.6	.9	.7	.5	100
44's - 50's	do.	.3	.2	.4	.3	.3	.2	.1	.2	.1	33
40's - 44's	do.	.3	.2	.3	.2	.4	.3	.2	.5	.1	50
Not finer than 40's	do.	.5	1.1	.7	.8	.9	.3	.7	.6	.5	62
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.1	.1	.2	.3	.4	.2	.4	.2	100
Duty-free	do.	11.7	12.8	8.3	8.8	11.7	9.8	13.4	9.1	7.8	89
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	6.0	5.6	5.1	4.6	6.2	4.6	6.8	4.5	3.4	74
Not finer than 40's	do.	5.7	7.2	3.2	4.2	5.5	5.2	6.6	4.6	4.4	105
Accumulated since January 1:											
Dutiable 2/	do.	88.0	95.7	104.6	112.7	82.7	87.6	92.7	97.4	103.7	92
60's and finer	do.	51.8	55.6	60.7	65.3	42.5	44.8	46.8	48.4	52.4	80
56's - 60's	do.	12.5	13.9	15.4	16.9	12.2	13.0	13.9	14.7	15.7	93
50's - 56's	do.	7.5	8.3	9.1	9.6	8.9	9.5	10.4	11.1	11.6	121
44's - 50's	do.	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.7	3.8	106
40's - 44's	do.	3.7	3.9	4.2	4.4	3.5	3.8	4.0	4.5	4.6	105
Not finer than 40's	do.	7.6	8.6	9.3	10.1	10.5	10.9	11.6	12.1	12.6	125
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.7	2.9	126
Duty-free	do.	106.0	118.8	127.1	135.9	102.7	112.5	125.9	135.0	142.8	105
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	59.4	65.0	70.1	74.7	44.0	48.6	55.4	59.9	64.3	86
Not finer than 40's	do.	46.6	53.8	57.0	61.2	58.7	63.9	70.5	75.1	78.5	128
Imports for consumption, actual weight											
Dutiable	do.	10.0	11.2	13.1	12.1	10.0	6.7	7.2	6.7	9.4	78
Duty-free	do.	15.9	17.6	10.6	12.3	15.2	13.1	17.7	12.1	10.5	85
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/											
Per week, during month 4/											
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	5,189	5,752	5,674	5,198	6,088	5,315	6,106	5,090	5,305	102
60's and finer	do.	2,706	3,113	2,973	2,882	3,426	3,108	3,339	2,687	2,896	100
50's up to 60's	do.	1,863	2,055	2,063	1,793	2,071	1,775	2,282	1,994	2,046	114
48's and coarser	do.	620	584	638	523	591	432	485	409	363	69
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775	3,036	2,680	3,197	2,307	2,676	96
Accumulated since January 1:											
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	214.7	237.7	260.4	286.4	203.9	230.4	254.9	280.3	301.5	105
60's and finer	do.	114.9	127.3	139.2	153.6	112.3	127.9	141.2	154.7	166.2	108
50's up to 60's	do.	75.5	83.8	92.0	101.0	70.5	79.3	88.5	98.4	106.6	106
48's and coarser	do.	24.3	26.6	29.2	31.8	21.1	23.2	25.2	27.2	28.7	90
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	95.2	107.2	118.7	132.6	95.3	108.7	121.5	133.1	143.8	108
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear										
Accumulated since January 1:	yards										
Apparel fabrics	do.	222.3			295.1		241.5				109
Government orders	do.	5.3			6.4		1.9				36
Men's and boys' wear	do.	106.6			140.2		119.7				112
Women's and children's wear	do.	110.4			148.5		119.9				109
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	11.1			15.0		8.7				78
Blanketing	do.	7.9			10.6		6.4				81
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	3.2			4.4		2.3				72
Total woven fabrics	do.	233.4			310.1		250.2				104

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade. 3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products. 4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter. 5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

advances in Boston quotations for some domestic descriptions over the same period were as much as 27 percent. But quotations for most domestic descriptions were up between 10 and 25 percent, with advances in prices of fine and half-blood wools greater than those for the coarser grades. Early February quotations were at the highest levels in about 2 years.

The general advance in wool prices abroad and at Boston has been reflected in the mid-month average of prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool. The mid-month average was below the 1955 seasonal average of 42.8 cents per pound, grease basis, for the first 7 months of the current season but above thereafter. Government payments to producers after the close of the season will bring the average return for the season up to 62 cents, the incentive level. The incentive level for the 1957 marketing season also is 62 cents.

Government payments under the 1955 program amounted to about 57 million dollars. The total consisted of about 50 million dollars for shorn wool and about 7 million dollars for lambs (pulled wool compensatory payments).

A decline of 2 percent in the number of stock sheep on farms and ranches in the United States at the beginning of this year from a year earlier suggests slightly lower shorn wool production this year. Drought in Texas was an important factor in the reduction in stock sheep numbers.

Indications are that world consumption of wool in 1956 increased for the second successive year. It appears that the world wool textile industry also consumed more fiber other than wool, but that the increase was a little less than for wool.

Activity in the domestic wool textile industry also increased in 1956 for the second year in succession. Mills used more of both apparel and carpet wool than in either 1954 or 1955. Use of apparel wool was up 5 percent relative to 1955 and 14 percent relative to 1954. Corresponding increases for carpet wool were 8 percent and 26 percent.

The increase in the use of carpet wool last year was reflected in larger imports of duty-free wool for consumption. With imports of dutiable wool lower than in 1955 and little change in domestic production, the increase in mill use of apparel wool suggests a reduction in stocks. Commodity Credit Corporation holdings of wool acquired under the 1952-54 price support programs were reduced substantially last year. As of February 14, CCC stocks amounted to 58 million pounds, actual weight.

Survey of Recent Developments

Prices in Foreign Markets Up Substantially From Year Ago

Except for temporary interruptions prices of wool in foreign markets advanced from late March 1956 into early February. Net rises in prices of most merino wools at the Australian auctions ranged between 25 and 30 percent. Prices of most crossbred wools advanced between 15 and 25 percent. The general advance in wool prices reflects strengthening of world demand relative to available supplies.

The rise in wool prices over the last year follows a general decline which extended from mid-1954 into early 1956 (table 1). Declines in prices of most merino wools during that period were between 25 and 30 percent. Declines for most crossbred wools were between 20 and 25 percent. Historically fluctuations such as those described above have been characteristic of wool prices.

Boston Quotations Also Higher Than Year Ago

Boston quotations for imported and domestic descriptions generally have followed the pattern established in foreign markets. Quotations for domestic descriptions began to advance at about the time of the opening of the current domestic marketing season. Net advances for some domestic descriptions between last April and early February of this year were as much as 27 percent. Quotations for most descriptions were between 10 and 25 percent above a year earlier (table 2). They were at the highest levels in about 2 years. In general, advances for fine and half-blood wools were greater than those for the coarser grades.

Growers' Prices Also Advanced

In contrast with the downward movement over the 1955 season, the trend of the mid-month averages of prices received by domestic growers for shorn wool this season has been upward from 40.3 cents per pound, grease basis, for April, the first month of the season, to 46.7 cents for January. The January average was the highest since March 1955.

The mid-month average was below a year earlier during each of the first 6 months of the season but above during the following 4 months. For the first 7 months of the current season, it was lower than the 1955 seasonal average of 42.8 cents. As for the 1955 season, Government payments after the close of the season will bring the average return up to 62 cents, the incentive level.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1954-57

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.7	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1
September 10	164.9	140.3	---	98.2	91.2	90.0
September 17	172.7	144.7	---	100.4	94.5	92.2
November 26	155.7	122.0	---	87.2	83.7	81.3
December 10	156.9	119.7	104.6	90.6	86.0	83.7
1955						
January 14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January 21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7
February 18	155.3	121.7	110.1	93.9	89.3	88.1
February 25	155.6	124.3	110.3	95.2	91.8	90.6
March 25	153.6	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
April 1	149.0	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
May 13	149.2	124.7	110.7	95.6	90.9	89.7
May 20	148.8	124.4	110.4	96.5	91.8	90.7
July 15	141.5	116.0	---	92.8	88.1	87.0
July 22	133.4	113.6	---	91.6	87.0	85.8
September 9	127.6	109.1	98.6	83.5	81.2	78.9
September 22	130.0	109.1	---	84.7	82.4	80.1
October 28	134.0	111.9	97.9	88.6	85.1	82.7
November 4	134.3	112.1	---	89.9	86.4	84.1
December 2	135.4	112.1	---	91.1	88.7	87.6
December 9	135.4	113.2	---	92.2	89.9	88.7
1956						
January 20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.8
January 27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4
March 2	138.0	107.6	---	84.2	81.9	80.7
March 15	138.0	105.2	92.4	83.0	80.7	80.7
April 20	140.4	115.9	99.5	87.8	85.4	85.4
April 27	142.6	115.7	99.4	87.7	85.3	85.3
June 1	151.8	---	101.6	---	---	86.4
June 8	151.9	122.7	101.6	88.8	86.5	86.5
July 13	151.4	128.1	---	88.5	86.2	86.2
July 20	153.7	128.1	---	89.7	87.3	86.2
September 14	165.8	139.1	104.3	97.4	95.1	92.8
September 21	165.8	139.2	---	97.4	95.1	92.8
October 26	156.6	133.4	99.8	91.7	89.3	88.2
October 31	156.5	133.3	99.7	93.9	91.6	90.4
November 30	170.4	139.1	110.1	104.3	100.9	100.9
December 7	169.3	135.7	105.5	97.4	95.1	93.9
1957						
January 18	172.5	138.7	106.0	97.9	95.6	95.6
February 1	174.9	138.8	111.9	99.1	95.6	95.6

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series. Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2. - Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended February 15, 1957 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1956 week ended Feb. 17	1956 week ended Nov. 2	1957 week ended Feb. 15	Percentage change week ended Feb. 15 from: Average 1947-49	Feb. 17 1956	Nov. 2 1956
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	132.0	147.5	162.5	+7.1	+23.1	+10.2
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	122.5	132.5	152.5	+11.2	+24.5	+15.1
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	112.5	122.5	132.5	+21.4	+17.8	+8.2
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	107.5	112.5	122.5	+22.5	+14.0	+8.9
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	97.5	107.5	109.5	+21.8	+12.3	+1.9
Common and braid	83.5	92.5	100.5	101.5	+21.6	+ 9.7	+1.0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	138.0	147.5	162.5	+5.2	+17.8	+10.2
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	117.5	127.5	137.5	+4.5	+17.0	+7.8
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	107.5	114.5	118.5	+14.8	+10.2	+3.5
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	102.5	109.5	110.0	+13.4	+7.3	+ .5
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	92.5	103.0	105.0	+33.9	+13.5	+1.9
Common and braid	73.4	87.5	93.0	95.0	+29.4	+8.6	+2.2
Original bag							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	142.5	152.5	162.5	+7.7	+14.0	+6.6
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	122.5	127.5	142.5	+17.8	+16.3	+11.8
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	112.5	122.5	132.5	+19.6	+17.8	+8.2

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Payments Under 1955 Incentive Program Add Up to $57 Million

As of late January, payments under the 1955 incentive program amounted to approximately 57.1 million dollars. The total includes promotion deductions of about 3 million dollars. Payments on shorn wool amounted to 49.7 million dollars and on lambs (pulled wool compensatory payments) to 7.4 million dollars.

Shorn wool payments under the 1955 program were equivalent to 44.9 percent of dollar returns from the sale of shorn wool in the open market. The payment rate of 44.9 percent was the percentage needed to bring the average return up to the incentive level of 62 cents.

The payment rate on lambs was 77 cents per hundredweight of live animal sold for slaughter. Since lamb's wool normally is coarser in grade and shorter in staple than shorn wool, the wool per hundredweight of live animal (assumed to be 5 pounds for payment purposes) is considered equal in value to 4 pounds of shorn wool.

Production deductions under the 1955 incentive program amounted to 1 cent per pound for shorn wool and 5 cents per hundred pounds of live-weight for lambs and yearlings. The deductions are used for advertising and related market development activities for lamb and wool under Section 708 of the National Wool Act of 1954. They were made in accordance with an agreement entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture with the American Sheep Producers' Council, Inc., and approved by growers in a referendum.

1956 and 1957 Incentive Programs for Wool and Mohair

The incentive levels for shorn wool for both the current and 1957-58 marketing years are 62 cents per pound, grease basis, to the producer. The payment method for shorn wool is the same as under the 1955 program. After the close of each season, producers will receive a Government payment based on the percentage needed to bring the average return per pound for the season up to the incentive level. Pulled wool is supported through payments on unshorn lambs sold, with the payment per hundredweight equivalent to 4 times the average payment per pound of shorn wool.

The support price for mohair under the 1957 program is 70 cents. This is the same as for the 1955 and 1956 programs. Support, if necessary, will be provided through payments made in the same manner as for shorn wool. A large part of the 1957 spring clip is already under contract at prices substantially above the support level.

Payments were not required for the 1955 clip, since the 82.2 cents average price received was above the support level. Growers' prices for the 1956 clip averaged 84.0 cents, which is 14 cents above the support level.

Support for mohair was first provided in the Agricultural Act of 1949. Market conditions have been such that support operations have not been necessary.

Prices of Man-made Staple Fiber Increased

Toward the end of last year, manufacturers of some of the non-cellulosic staple fibers announced price increases of from 3 to 6 cents per pound. Among the staple fibers for which prices were advanced were Dacron, Nylon, and Orlon. About a year earlier, prices of several of the non-cellulosic staple fibers were reduced 20 to 30 cents.

1956-57 World Production 4 Percent Higher Than 1955-56

The current Foreign Agricultural Service estimate of world production of wool for the 1956 season is 4,870 million pounds, grease basis (table 3). This is about 5 million pounds larger than the preliminary forecast of last July. It is about 90 million pounds or 4 percent larger than the estimate for 1955. The estimate for the 1956 season includes the clips of the Northern Hemisphere producing countries and the 1956-57 clips of countries in the Southern Hemisphere. The 1956 season is the ninth in succession during which world production has increased.

An increase in production is indicated for each of the three British Dominions-Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. Production in Australia is estimated at over 7 percent above 1955. The increase includes a sizable quantity of wool which normally would have been considered as produced in 1955. A labor dispute toward the end of the 1955 season resulted in delayed shearing of some sheep as well as the holding over at country points of some wool at the end of the season.

An indicated increase of 8 percent has reversed the downward trend in Argentina. A decline of about 5 percent is indicated for Uruguay.

U. S. Stock Sheep Numbers Decline

Stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches in the United States on January 1 were estimated at 26.4 million head, a decline of 2 percent from a year earlier (table 4). All classes of stock sheep declined.

Table 3.- Production of wool in specified countries, grease basis, 1950-56

Country	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Argentina	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	365.0	357.0	386.0
Australia	1,117.5	1,080.0	1,281.1	1,244.0	1,288.0	1,398.6	1,500.0
New Zealand	390.0	406.7	418.0	426.0	455.0	462.0	470.0
Union of South Africa	227.5	240.0	256.8	279.0	281.0	294.0	301.0
Uruguay	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	198.4	196.2	185.0
Other countries	1,650.0	1,715.9	1,797.3	1,918.5	1,932.6	1,972.2	2,028.0
Estimated world total	4,000.0	4,050.0	4,350.0	4,470.0	4,520.0	4,680.0	4,870.0

1/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of the Foreign Agricultural Service.

Table 4.- Number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, by class, United States, January 1, 1942-57

Year	Lambs		One year and over			Total stock sheep
	Ewes	Rams and wethers	Ewes	Rams	Wethers	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1942	7,864	1,778	37,361	1,446	897	49,346
1943	6,928	1,643	37,303	1,434	888	48,196
1944	6,142	1,951	33,991	1,345	841	44,270
1945	4,782	1,513	31,280	1,264	770	39,609
1946	4,765	1,530	27,619	1,100	511	35,525
1947	4,199	1,415	24,790	994	407	31,805
1948	4,058	1,144	23,013	901	370	29,486
1949	3,827	974	20,976	829	334	26,940
1950	3,908	1,109	20,057	790	318	26,182
1951	4,521	1,146	20,446	823	315	27,251
1952	5,049	827	20,952	842	274	27,944
1953	3,966	842	21,648	873	264	27,593
1954	3,641	823	21,471	868	276	27,079
1955	3,982	740	21,321	860	234	27,137
1956	3,838	687	21,429	845	213	27,012
1957 1/	3,742	634	20,982	817	195	26,370

1/ Preliminary.

The number of stock sheep in the 13 Western States was down about 5 percent from a year earlier. Due largely to the drought, numbers in Texas, the leading sheep State, were 14 percent lower than a year earlier. Only Arizona, South Dakota, and Wyoming showed increases.

In contrast with the decline in the Western States, numbers in the Native States increased 2 percent. Only 3 of the 35 Native States had decreases in stock sheep numbers during 1956. These States were Louisiana, Virginia, and West Virginia.

U. S. Production of Man-made Staple Fiber Continues to Increase

The Textile Economics Bureau estimates last year's total production of man-made staple fiber at 526 million pounds (table 5). Production of non-cellulosic staple, which accounted for about one-fourth of the total, was 21 percent above 1955. Output of rayon and acetate staple, which accounted for the other three-fourths, increased less than 1 percent. Consumption of rayon and acetate staple is estimated at 474 million pounds, a 16 percent decrease.

Table 5.- Production of man-made staple fiber, United States, 1946-56

Year	Rayon and acetate	Non-cellulosic	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1946	176.4	10.0	186.4
1947	228.4	3.3	231.7
1948	268.2	5.0	273.2
1949	195.1	10.0	205.1
1950	305.5	22.4	327.9
1951	336.0	31.7	367.7
1952	307.0	47.2	354.2
1953	310.0	51.3	361.3
1954	378.9	58.8	437.7
1955	395.6	105.3	500.9
1956	398.3	127.3	525.6

Compiled from Textile Organon.

1955-56 Exports from Southern Hemisphere Above 1954-55

Total exports of wool from the 5 major exporting countries of the Southern Hemisphere - Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, and Uruguay - during the 1955-56 marketing season were almost 11 percent above 1954-55 (table 6). The increase was made possible by larger production in the three British Dominions and the sizable carryover from the 1954-55 season in South America.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1953-54, 1954,55, and 1955-56 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	1,071	1,045	1,152
New Zealand	389	411	407
Union of South Africa	229	250	261
Argentina	196	222	246
Uruguay	118	80	156

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

1956-57 Exports from Southern Hemisphere Running Above 1955-56

Total exports from Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa during the early months of the current season were substantially larger than those of the same months of 1955-56 (table 7). Increased production made the larger quantity available for export this season. Exports from Argentina were up a little, but shipments from Uruguay were down sharply because of a decline in production.

Table 7.- Exports of wool actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 seasons through November 1/

Exporting country	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	432	336	438	467
New Zealand 2/	50	50	47	67
Union of South Africa	78	77	85	89
Argentina	12	22	18	19
Uruguay	7	6	23	13

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia New Zealand and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through October.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

United States Imported Less Dutiable Wool Last Year Than in 1955

The clean content of United States imports of dutiable wool for consumption during 1956 is estimated to have totaled 104 million pounds, about 8 percent less than in 1955. Consumption of apparel wool last year was above 1955, however, and domestic production was about unchanged. The decline in imports of dutiable wool for consumption suggests a reduction in stocks of domestic and duty-paid foreign wool.

Imports of wools finer than 56's, which accounted for almost two-thirds of dutiable imports last year, were 17 percent lower than in 1955. Dutiable imports of 56's and coarser wools were 16 percent higher than in 1955.

Imports of Duty-free Wool Increased Last Year

Imports of duty-free wools for consumption during 1956 totaled 143 million pounds, clean content. This was about 5 percent above 1955, and the largest since 1950. The large imports were associated with greater mill use.

Duty-free imports of wools not finer than 40's were 28 percent above 1955. Wools not finer than 40's accounted for 55 percent of total

duty-free imports. Imports of so-called "named" wools, which accounted for the remainder, were down 14 percent.

Of the 91 million pounds of wools not finer than 40's imported last year, 86 percent entered duty-free. Almost 96 percent of the "named" wools entered duty-free. "Named" wools and wools not finer than 40's enter free of duty if for use in the manufacture of floor coverings, press cloth, camel hair belting, knit or felt boots, and heavy fulled lumbermen's socks.

Carpet Wool Stocks on January 1 About 4 Percent Below Year Earlier

Manufacturers and dealers held about 33.2 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool ("named" wools and wools not finer than 40's, both free and dutiable) at the end of 1956. End-of-year holdings were about 1 million pounds or 4 percent below a year earlier. They were about 19 percent below stocks at the end of the third quarter of 1956.

Spinners held 27.7 million pounds, about the same as a year earlier but about 5 million pounds less than on October 1, 1956. Dealers are reported to have held about a million pounds less than a year earlier and about 2 million pounds less than on October 1.

CCC Holdings of Wool Reduced to About 58 Million Pounds

When the competitive bid sales program went into effect November 1, 1955, the Commodity Credit Corporation held about 149 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 68 million pounds, clean, of wool acquired under the 1952-54 price support programs. By February 14, the CCC inventory had been reduced to 58 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 26 million pounds scoured basis.

Under the competitive bid program, monthly sales for domestic use are subject to a maximum limitation of 6-1/4 million pounds, actual weight, 1/24 of the inventory on hand when the program went into affect. The maximum monthly quota was sold during 10 of the 15 months the program has been in effect.

The monthly limitation does not apply to sales at schedule prices -103 percent of 1954 loan rates plus selling commission. Since market prices have been in the neighborhood of schedule prices in recent months, some wool has been sold outside the competitive bid program.

World Consumption Increased Last Year

World comsumption of wool (apparel and carpet) during January-September 1956 is estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee to have been about 9 percent above 1955 and 12 percent above 1954. Much of the increase

above 1955 was accounted for by France, Japan, and the United States. Consumption in these countries increased 12, 36, and 9 percent, respectively. The world estimate is based on aggregate consumption in the 11 consuming countries which furnish the CEC with estimates - Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.

Total consumption of materials other than virgin wool, by the wool textile industries of those countries for which information is available, is estimated to have increased a little less than use of wool.

1956 Mill Use of Apparel Wool Up Somewhat From 1955

Woolen and worsted mills are reported to have used 302 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel (domestic and duty-paid) foreign wool last year. The quantity used was up 5 percent above 1955 and 14 percent more than the post-World War II low in 1954. The increase over the last two years probably reflects increased sales of wool products at the various stages of manufacture and distribution. Wool apparently has regained some of the ground lost to other fiber, particularly man-made fiber.

The weekly rate of mill use last year was above a year earlier each month except November (table 8). The average weekly rate for December, the latest month for which information is available, was 2 percent above a year earlier.

Last year consumption increased on both the woolen and worsted systems. The worsted system picked up a little more than the woolen. Production of wool top and noil (wool consumption on the worsted system) was up 8.7 percent, but use of raw wool in woolen spinning (consumption on the woolen system) was only 2.4 percent above 1955. Consumption on the worsted system accounted for 50.4 percent of the wool used on the two systems last year (table 10). The proportion, 48.9 percent, in 1955 was the lowest of record.

About 167 million pounds of 60's and finer wools were used on the two systems in 1956. The percentage increase, 8.4 percent, for such wools was somewhat larger than for coarser wools (table 9). Of the total used on the two systems, the worsted system accounted for 64.6 percent, a little larger than in 1955. Historically, 60's and finer wools have always accounted for a larger proportion of total use on the worsted system than on the woolen system. Last year, 70.6 percent of the wool used on the worsted system consisted of 60's and finer wools while only 39.4 percent of the wool used in woolen spinning was 60's and finer. The percentages in 1955 were 69.7 and 38.3

Table 8.- Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-56

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,350	5,726	5,443	5,696	5,877	5,416	5,181	5,797	5,189	5,752	5,674	5,198
Carpet	2,546	2,540	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	1,655	2,629	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775
Total	7,896	8,266	7,984	8,251	8,462	7,667	6,836	8,426	7,839	8,728	8,567	7,973
1956												
Apparel	6,239	6,398	5,885	6,254	6,168	5,661	5,389	6,088	5,315	6,106	5,090	5,305
Carpet	3,213	3,350	2,890	3,028	2,856	2,360	1,788	3,036	2,680	3,197	2,307	2,676
Total	9,452	9,748	8,775	9,282	9,024	8,021	7,177	9,124	7,995	9,303	7,397	7,981

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 9.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, 1947-56

Grade	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	62.2	62.6	54.6	56.3	58.5	51.2	51.0	52.4	53.6	55.1
50's up to 60's	25.6	26.9	35.4	34.5	32.8	35.8	35.8	34.5	35.3	35.3
48's and coarser	12.2	10.5	10.0	9.2	8.7	13.0	13.2	13.1	11.1	9.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1947-56

System	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	64.0	65.8	59.1	67.3	58.9	53.9	57.3	52.0	48.9	50.4
Woolen	36.0	34.2	40.9	32.7	41.1	46.1	42.7	48.0	51.1	49.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Of the 171 million pounds of top and noil combed, wool accounted for 89.0 percent, man-made faber 5.8 percent, and other fiber, mostly mohair, 5.2 percent. The year before, wool accounted for 87.6 percent, manmade fiber 6.3 percent, and other fiber 6.1 percent. It should be noted, however, that only about one-fourth of the man-made top output is by combing, and the bulk of this is rayon and acetate. Non-cellulosic fiber accounts for most of the top produced without combing.

Shorn and pulled wool accounted for 41.1 percent of the fiber used in the spinning of yarn(except carpet) on the woolen system. Other fiber, including other wool (tops, noils, etc.), mohair, alpaca, vicuna, and other animal fiber, reused and reprocessed wool, manmade fiber, etc., accounted for the remainder. In 1955, shorn and pulled wool accounted for 41.4 percent of the total.

Domestic Mills Used More Carpet Wool Last Year

United States mills used 144 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet (duty-free foreign) wool last year. This was 8.4 percent more than in 1955, the second successive increase and the largest since 1950. The weekly rate of mill use last year was above a year earlier each month through October, but below a year earlier therafter.

In addition to the wool put into process, woolen mills also used 56 million pounds of other fiber in the spinning of carpet yarn. This represented a decline of 2 percent from 1955. Man-made fiber accounted for 62 percent of the other fiber, a slightly lower proportion than in 1955. The proportion of the total accounted for by man-made fiber during the final two months of the year, when prices of coarse wools suitable for floor coverings began to advance, was substantially higher than a year earlier (table 11).

More Woolen and Worsted Fabric Produced Last Year Than in 1955

Production of woolen and worsted woven fabric (fabric principally wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool by weight) amounted to 250 million finished linear yards during the first three quarters of last year. The yardage woven and finished was 7 percent above 1955 and 22 percent above the post-World War II low of 1954 (table 12).

Of the total produced, 241 million yards were apparel fabric. This was an increase of 9 percent from 1955 and 30 percent from 1954. Output of men's and boys' wear fabric was up 12 percent, and women's and children's wear fabric up about 9 percent. The quantity of men's and boys' wear worsteds was up 19 percent, and yardage of woolens up only 4 percent. Worsteds for women's and children's wear were up 32 percent, but woolens were up only 6 percent.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-56

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.5	72.6	68.5	69.2	70.3	71.9	70.9	70.8	73.1	69.8
1956	74.1	74.2	76.3	72.1	73.6	74.4	71.2	72.2	70.3	71.2	66.9	68.5	71.9
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
1956	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.5
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.1	8.6	9.8	7.9	6.2	6.3	6.9	6.2	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8
1956	6.7	7.0	6.3	8.3	8.6	6.6	8.9	8.5	8.9	9.1	8.8	9.9	8.2
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.4	21.7	20.6	20.7	18.5	22.1	19.5	20.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	15.9	19.3
1956	17.0	16.4	14.5	17.1	15.1	16.5	16.3	16.7	18.2	17.4	21.9	19.6	17.3
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	.9	1.2
1956	.5	.6	.9	1.0	.7	.9	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.1

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. 2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States, January-September 1954-56 1/

Fabric	1954	1955	1956	Percentage change 1956 from 1954	Percentage change 1956 from 1955
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	204,555	233,457	250,204	+22.3	+7.2
Apparel	186,367	222,324	241,461	+29.6	+8.6
Government orders	1,921	5,308	1,852	-3.6	-65.1
Other than Government orders	184,446	217,016	239,609	+29.9	+10.4
Men's and boys'	2/ 85,037	2/106,582	2/119,739	+40.8	+12.3
Woolen	34,808	52,498	54,688	+57.1	+ 4.2
Worsted	44,883	48,504	57,732	+28.6	+19.0
Women's and children's	2/ 99,409	2/110,434	2/119,870	+20.6	+8.5
Woolen	79,696	90,322	95,321	+19.6	+5.5
Worsted	12,130	10,309	13,624	+12.3	+32.2
Non-apparel	18,188	11,133	8,743	-51.9	-21.5
Blanketing	10,750	7,895	6,364	-40.8	-19.4
Government orders	3/	523	3/	---	---
Other than Government orders	3/	7,372	3/	---	---
Other non-apparel	7,438	3,238	2,379	-68.0	-26.5
	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Percent	Percent
Woven felt	7,397	8,079	8,520	+15.2	+5.5

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width. 2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available. 3/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

There was a marked shift in the proportion of different weights of fabric for men's and boys' wear last year. Fabric of 13 ounces and up accounted for 41 percent of the total last year compared with 32 percent in 1955. There was little change in the distribution of women's and children's apparel fabric among the different weights.

The quantity of apparel fabric produced for Government orders was about 65 percent less than in 1955, and less than 1 percent of the apparel fabric total. Government orders have accounted for less than 3 percent of apparel fabric output for each of the last 3 years.

Production of woolen and worsted non-apparel fabric containing 50 percent or more wool, reused rool, or reprocessed wool has shown a continuous decline over the last 3 years. During 1956, output of non-apparel fabric, mostly blanketing and upholstery, was about 22 percent below 1955, 52 percent below 1954, and 78 percent below 1953.

Mixed Trends in Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Last Year

About 5.0 million overcoats and topcoats, 16.0 million regular-weight suits, 5.9 million summer-weight suits, and 60.6 million men's separate dress and sport trousers were cut in 1956 (table 13). Changes in the number cut relative to 1955 were mixed. About 16 percent more summer-weight suits and about 2 percent more overcoats and topcoats were produced than in 1955. Cuttings of regular-weight suits were down about 1 percent, and separate dress and sport trousers about 4 percent.

The proportion of summer-weight suits cut from wool fabric increased for the fourth year in succession (table 14). It increased from 28 percent in 1952 to almost 40 percent last year. The proportion had been as high as 72 percent in 1946 and 1947. Wool fabric accounted for a larger proportion of the separate dress and sport trousers for the third year in succession. The proportion had declined from 62 percent in 1947 to 30 percent in 1953. The proportion last year was 38 percent.

Mixed Trends in Production of Women's Outerwear Garments Last Year

About 27 million coats, 13 million suits, 148 million unit-priced dresses, 88 million skirts, and 83 million women's, misses', and juniors' sweaters were produced during 1956 (table 15). Changes relative to 1955 in the number produced ranged from an increase of 8 percent for sweaters to a decline of 18 percent for suits.

Table 13.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1954-56

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1956 from	
	1954	1955	1956	1954	1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	18,152	21,231	21,919	+20.8	+3.2
Regular--weight	13,284	16,168	16,031	+20.7	-.8
50 percent or more wool	12,486	---	---	---	---
Other	798	---	---	---	---
Summer--weight	4,868	5,063	5,888	+21.0	+16.3
50 percent or more wool	1,723	1,813	2,324	+34.9	+28.2
Man-made fibers	2,939	2,848	3,047	+3.7	+7.0
Other	206	402	517	+151.0	+28.6
Separate dress and sport trousers	56,112	63,252	60,648	+8.1	-4.1
50 percent or more wool	17,736	22,296	22,932	+29.3	+2.9
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	38,376)	40,956	37,716	-1.7	-7.9
Chiefly cotton	)				
Overcoats and topcoats	4,499	4,873	4,984	+10.8	+2.3

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1953-56

Type of garment	1953	1954	1955	1956
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits				
Regular--weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	91.1	94.0	---	---
Other	8.9	6.0	---	---
Summer--weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.3	35.4	35.8	39.5
Man-made fibers	66.4	60.4	56.3	51.7
Other	3.3	4.2	7.9	8.8
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.0	31.6	35.2	37.8
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	61.6)	68.4	64.8	62.2
Chiefly cotton	8.4)			

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1954-56

Type of garment	1954	1955	1956	Percentage change 1956 from 1955
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	140,851	146,002	147,643	+1.1
Rayon and acetate	80,899	77,531	77,853	+.4
Other	59,952	68,471	69,790	+1.9
Skirts	75,216	82,812	87,828	+6.1
Rayon and acetate	25,200	22,176	17,628	-20.5
Other	50,016	60,636	70,200	+15.8
Suits	13,431	15,651	12,764	-18.4
Rayon and acetate	5,911	6,438	4,889	-24.1
Other	7,520	9,213	7,875	-14.5
Coats	25,231	25,607	26,811	+4.7
Blouses	165,576	169,596	155,940	-8.1
Cotton	105,000	109,824	95,784	-12.8
Other	60,576	59,772	60,156	+.6

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1954-56

Type of garment	1954	1955	1956
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	57.4	53.1	52.7
Other	42.6	46.9	47.3
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	33.5	26.8	20.1
Other	66.5	73.2	79.9
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	44.0	41.1	38.3
Other	56.0	58.9	61.7
Blouses	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	63.4	64.8	61.4
Other	36.6	35.2	38.6

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M67H, Bureau of the Census.

LIST OF TABLES

Table number		Page
	Statistical Summary Part I Prices	2
	Statistical Summary Part II Supplies and Mill Activity	4
1	Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1954-57	7
2	Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended February 15, 1957, with comparisons	8
3	Production of wool in specified countries, grease basis, 1950-56	11
4	Number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, by class, United States, January 1, 1942-57	11
5	Production of manmade staple fiber, United States, 1946-56	12
6	Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1953-54, 1954-55, and 1955-56 seasons	13
7	Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, and 1956-57 seasons through November	14
8	Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-56	17
9	Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, 1947-56	18
10	Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1947-56	18
11	Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-56	20
12	Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States, January-September 1954-56	21

Table number | Page

13 Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1954-56 23

14 Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1953-56 23

15 Cuttings of specified items of women's misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1954-56 24

16 Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1954-56 24

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Penalty for private use to avoid payment of postage $300

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

NOTICE

If you no longer need this publication, check here ☐ return this sheet, and your name will be dropped from the mailing list.

If your address should be changed, write the new address on this sheet and return the whole sheet to

Administrative Services Division (ML)
Agricultural Marketing Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.